

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00591 260738Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 /091 W
-----123044 261242Z /53

R 260132Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9297
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0591

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: MASS MOPS LA VM US
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN LAOS

1. A USUALLY RELIABLE ASEAN SOURCE TOLD US MAY 24 THAT AT PRESENT THE SRV MAINTAINED AT LEAST TWO DIVISIONS IN SOUTHERN LAOS. THE 325 B DIVISION WAS BASED AT SENO IN SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES AND HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR KHAMMOUAN AND SAVANNAKHET PROVINCES. THE 324 B DIVISION WAS BASED AT PAKSE. THE SAME SOURCE SAID THAT EARLIER IN 1978, THE VIETNAMESE 968 DIVISION HAD BEEN LOCATED IN ATTOPEU PROVINCE, WHICH BORDERS BOTH KAMPUCHEA AND VIET NAM, BUT THAT THIS UNIT HAD RELOCATED TO AN UNKNOWN POSITION.

2. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD BROUGHT INTO LAOS 25 TO 30 TEN-WHEEL U.S. TRUCKS WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BELONGED TO GVN FORCES. THE TRUCKS BORE THE DESIGNATION "K7 B2" (POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN DESIGNATION) AND WERE ASSIGNED TO TRANSPORT OPERATIONS IN THE LPDR'S FOUR
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SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THAT "RECENTLY" VIETNAMESE FORCES HAD RELOCATED FROM THE PHONG SAVAN AREA IN THE PLAIN OF JARS, MOVING ALONG ROUTE 7 THROUGH SALA PHOU KHOUN, MOUNG KASSY, AND VANG VIANG. SOME OF THE UNITS HAD REPORTEDLY LOCATED AS FAR SOUTH AS PHON HONG IN THE

NORTHERN VIENTIANE PLAIN AND AS FAR WEST AS THE BAN DON AREA.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION WITH WHICH
TO EVALUATE THIS REPORT.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780222-1125
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaajld.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37743895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2538706
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN LAOS
TAGS: MASS, MOPS, LA, VM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37743895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014